

## NEW PUBLICATIONS,

## FOOTRY.

WISHMAKERS' TOWN. By WILLIAM YOUNG. 16mo, pp. 97. Henry Holt & Co.

THE THANKLESS MUSE. By HENRY A. BEERS. 16mo, pp. 133. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

AFTERNOON SONGS. By JULIA C. B. DOOLE. 16mo, pp. 184. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Mr. Young's strongest quality is the facility of his versification. He has an easy mastery of various metrical forms, and a very musical ear, and his pieces—all of which are short—move with a quick, imposing step, as if they had something important to communicate. Some of them certainly mean nothing at all; that is the case with the phantasmagoria of personations which is made to carry on the semblance of dramatic dialogue in the first part of the volume; others express a somewhat sombre philosophy in well-worn commonplace. It is a pity that a writer who manages poetical expression so well has not a clearer poetical impulse. If we are asked why Mr. Young calls his book, "Wishmakers' Town," we must say that we do not know. That may be our fault; but we believe that it is his.

Professor Beers gives us, in his "Thankless Muse," a little collection of verses whose chief merit is in their delicate and truthful descriptions of natural objects. This kind of poetry—the poetry of the picturesque—is not of the first order, but it is genuine and popular. The author has taste and fine feeling, and his sentiment is wholesome.

Mrs. Dorr's verse is always gentle and sympathetic, full of the love of nature, full of pure feeling, and often ennobled by religious sentiment. Her "Afternoon Songs" are distinguished, moreover, by a serious, reflective tone which is both dignified and beautiful. She touches the affections and all the simpler emotions of the heart with a sure hand; in such pieces as "A Dream of Songs" and "Unusing" she betrays a charming fancy; and in narrative poems like "Valdemar" she has made some happy ventures. Her new volume shows some of the best characteristics of a school of singers whose work, it never rises to the empyrean, at least never falls below a very respectable height, and whose tendencies are always well directed.

"Old Fire Laddies of New-York and Brooklyn" is the title of a large volume written and compiled by J. Frank Kerner, and published by M. Crane of this city. It is a comprehensive history of the old Volunteer Fire Departments of New-York and Brooklyn. The growth of the departments is described in a graphic manner. The great fires of 1835 and 1845, which destroyed many millions of dollars of property and seriously crippled for a time the business of the metropolis, are recalled, together with some of the later but less destructive fires. The raising of the regiment of Elsworth Fire Zouaves, composed entirely of members of the Volunteer Fire Department of this city, and their departure for the front in 1861, is set forth effectively. There are pen-sketches and portraits of most of the men who were prominent in the old Volunteer Department fifteen or twenty years ago. Many of these men have since become heads of insurance companies and bank presidents and cashiers, while others have made their mark in politics. As a history of an organization which did much good in its day, and will long be remembered by those associated with it, and others who knew its value as a medium for saving life and property, the book is a useful one.

## MEDICAL NOTES.

NEW USE FOR RUSSIAN STEAM BATHS.—Dr. Wachsmuth, of Berlin, is said to be the first to have made use of the Russian steam bath in diphtheria. The patient must first receive several glasses, as many as possible, of warmed tea or thin milk to drink, and then the cold leeks and feet are put for a long time in hot water, or washed with cold water and soap and then rubbed dry; after this they are rubbed with the dry palm of a strong person's hand, or with something similar to the flesh-brush, until very hot, this rubbing being made easier if a little oil is dropped on the skin after it becomes dry. If diphtheria occurs a teaspoonful of cod-liver or sweet oil is given. When the hands and feet have become warm the drinking is continued. In this well-ventilated room and with a few glasses of good Spanish wine, mixed with equal parts of water, and then some cups of tea or lemonade, followed sharp, cold rubings, and then again a few glasses of wine. At last the patient is wrapped up in air-tight woolen cloths and covered. If he can be made to sweat he is saved.

LEAD FOR SOUL PIPES AND CISTERS.—An English physician says draws attention to the undesirability from the standpoint of health of so general a use of lead. The point is especially made, in respect to lead soul pipes, that such a pipe invariably becomes more or less corroded in the course of ten or fifteen years, and then the noxious effluvia of the drain gradually escape through the house—children and infants being often exposed to this dangerous source of infection of the air. Another important point made is, that where lead is employed—as is so often the case—to line cisterns in which to store water, and the like, it is very probable that some of the lead will be dissolved in the water, and may give rise to colic, neuralgia, or even paralysis, in those who drink it; in this manner, lead enters into medicines prepared with distilled water which has been stored in lead cisterns.

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